

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00142 100845Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /112 W
-----104070 100848Z /11

R 100555Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6342
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGEIRS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASHA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MAKRID
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0142

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PVOR, PORG, MR. SY
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 00142 100845Z

SUBJ: SYRIA SUPPORTS ALGERIAN EFFORTS TO CONVENE MEETING ON NON-
ALIGNED NATIONS TO DISCUSS WESTERN SAHARA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0064

1. IT IS CLEAR THAT EVEN THOUGH SYRIA STILL CLAIMS NEUTRALITY
ON WESTERN SHARA QUESTION, ITS POLICY IS TILIGING TOWARDS

ALGERIA.

2. AMBASSADOR AND DCM RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO ATTEND OPEINING OF SYRIAN GOVERNMENT CULTURAL EXHIBITION OF PICTURES ON THE POLISARIO EFFORTS IN WESTERN SAHARA. ALGERIAN CHARGE PERSONALLY PRESSED AMBASSADOR TO ATTEND BUT WAS REFUSED. BY OPENLY SPONSORING ALGERIAN EXHIBITION SARG APPEARS TO BE PAYING PART OF THE PRICE FOR ITS ATTENDANCE AT TRIPOLI CONFERENCE.

3. TENDING CONFIRM THIS WERE COMMENTS BY MFA DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS MOHAMED AL-TAL, JAN 9, TO POLOFF WHO ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY CHANGE IN SYRIA'S POSITION ON THE SAHARA QUESTION. TAL SAID THERE WAS NO CHANGE. SYRIA STAND FOR ARAB UNITY AND THEREFORE OPPOSED ANY OPEN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN BROTHERLY ARAB STATES. SYRIA'S POSITION IS NEUTRAL ON WESTERN SAHARA. HOWEVER, MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO, BY TAKING POSITION THAT PROBLEMS IS RESOLVED, HAVE REJECTED INTER-ARAB NEGOTIATIONS. SYRIA FAVORS THE NEGOTIATION OF PROBLEMS SUCH AS THAT OF WESTERN SAHARA. THEREFORE, AL-TAL CONCLUDED, SYRIA WOULD ACCEPT ALGERIAN CALL FOR CONVENING SPECIAL MEETING IN HAVANNA ON NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS WESTERN SAHARA AND FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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